

Amendments to and Listing of the Claims

21. (Previously Presented) A cable comprising an outer metallic sheath, at least one metallic conductor therein, and a powdered filler disposed between the outer sheath and the metallic conductor, wherein the filler comprises a mineral insulation consisting essentially of a mixture of magnesium oxide and kaolin.

22. (Previously Presented) The cable according to claim 21, wherein the kaolin is present in an amount of about 3% to about 20% by dry weight in the mineral insulation.

23. (Previously Presented) The cable according to claim 21, wherein the kaolin is present in an amount of about 3% to about 15% by dry weight in the mineral insulation.

24. (Previously Presented) The cable according to claim 21, wherein the kaolin is present in an amount of about 5% to about 10% by dry weight in the mineral insulation.

25. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a metal sheathed mineral-insulated cable comprising, filling a metal sheath with at least one metallic conductor and a powdered mineral insulation filler comprising magnesium oxide and kaolin powder; and drawing down the sheath.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising mixing the magnesium oxide and the kaolin powders to form the filler before the filling step.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing a decrease in resistivity of a cable at ~~elevated temperatures~~ comprising, disposing at least one metallic conductor in a metallic sheath; filling the sheath with a powdered mineral insulation filler comprising a mixture of magnesium oxide and kaolin; and drawing down the sheath.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein the kaolin is present in an amount of about 3% to about 20% by dry weight in the mineral insulation.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein the kaolin is present in an amount of about 3% to about 15% by dry weight in the mineral insulation.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein the kaolin is present in an amount of about 5% to about 10% by dry weight in the mineral insulation.

31. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~preventing~~ reducing moisture infiltration to a cable comprising, disposing at least one metallic conductor in a metallic sheath; filling the sheath with a powdered mineral insulation filler comprising a mixture of particles of magnesium oxide and kaolin powder; and drawing down the sheath.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein the kaolin powder is present in an amount of about 3% to about 20% by dry weight in the mineral insulation.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein the kaolin powder is present in an amount of about 3% to about 15% by dry weight in the mineral insulation.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein the kaolin powder is present in an amount of about 5% to about 10% by dry weight in the mineral insulation.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the kaolin powder fills the cavities in the magnesium oxide.